

REMARKS

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on December 9, 2002.

Apparently that disclosure statement was not received by the Examiner in time to be considered before issuance of the December 18, 2002 Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests consideration at this time of the information cited in that disclosure statement and return of the initialed PTO-1449 form indicating such consideration..

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 32-36, 38, 39, 41, and 43-52 are pending in the present application.

Claims 32, 44, 45, 51 and 52 are the independent claims.

Claims 1-31, 37, 40 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 32, 33, 36, 39, 41, and 44 have been amended and Claims 45-52 have been added. Applicant submits that support for these amendments and new claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-44 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,411,266 (Maguire, Jr.). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in Claims 32 and 44, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of detecting a location of a controller operated by a player, generating a pointer display corresponding to the location of the controller as a second image of a virtual space, and generating an image of a mixed reality space by mixing a first image of the virtual space and the second image of the virtual space (i.e., the pointer display) with an image of the real space, wherein the pointer display is made up of not less than n (n is an integer not

less than 2) parallel lines each of which passes through vertices of a regular n-sided polygon. With these features, a pointer display that can point to any point in a mixed reality space is based on a location of a controller operated by a player and is a virtual image made up of n parallel lines, each of which passes through vertices of a regular n-sided polygon.

In particular, by using n parallel lines each of which passes through vertices of a regular n-sided polygon as the pointer display, it is possible to prevent a portion (in either virtual space or real space) that overlaps with the pointer display from being hidden by the pointer display. This is especially important when the mixed reality space is shared by a plurality of players, because it avoids a pointer display that blocks a significant portion of a player's view. In addition, the claimed pointer display enables a player to recognize easily the distance to the pointed at point and the direction of that point, and it also imposes a lighter processing load than a pointer display made up of surfaces.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claims 32 and 44. Maguire, Jr. discloses an image processing system for integrating images of real objects in an object space with images of virtual objects. A computer and image processor 16 generate integrated images from various viewer monitors 18 including one or more viewer body part monitor 46. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest at least the claimed pointer display.

As recited in Claims 45, 51, and 52, the present invention includes, among others, the features of detecting first location information representing locations of plural portions of a first player, detecting second location information representing locations of plural portions of a second player, and generating a virtual image to be superimposed on an

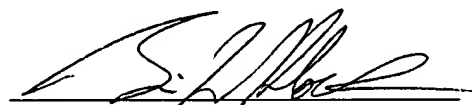
image of the second player included in a sensed image based on the first and second location information and a player model. By these features, a virtual image having high accuracy can be achieved since the image is generated based on first and second location information and a layer model. Applicant submits that Maguire, Jr. fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Claims 32, 44, 45, 51, and 52 are patentable over the cited art. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features that they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, DC office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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